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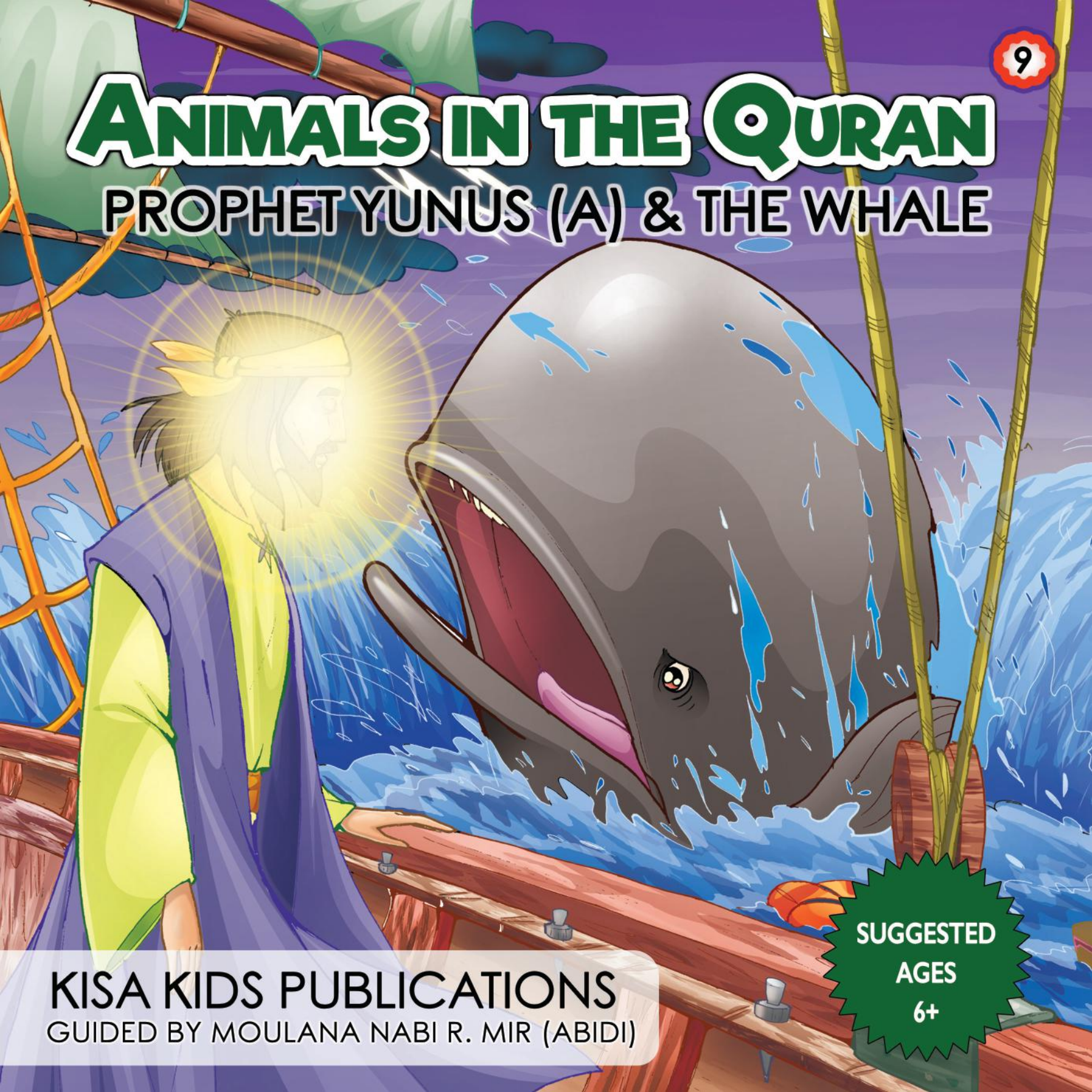
ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

PROPHET YUNUS (A) & THE WHALE



SUGGESTED AGES 6+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
GUIDED BY MOULANA NABI R. MIR (ABIDI)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj). May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

Brother Alāʾ Jaʿfarī

Acknowledgements

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah, but we would like to sincerely thank the efforts of Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Liliana Villalvazo, Sarah Ali, Amna Hussain, Zainab Mithani, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Kisae Nazar, Abeda Khimji, Zehra Abbas, Zainab Hussain, and Fatima Hussain. We would especially like to thank Nainawa Publications for their artwork and contributions
May Allah bless them in this world and the next.

Marḥūmīn Dedication

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Talebi family

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of *Animals in the Quran* is to strengthen children's understanding of how Allah is All-Powerful and All-Wise, thus strengthening their tawakkul and reliance. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh.

We pray to Allah to give us the strength and tawfīq to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʾās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think outside the box by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum and begin their life long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of Darse Khārij from Ḥawzah, Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, growing up in India while now residing in the United States, he has had the honor to meet with various communities and community leaders, and values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials and to create open source platforms so information and resources are available and accessible to all.

* * *

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family. Share the word, and join the mission.

9

ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

PROPHET YUNUS (A) & THE WHALE

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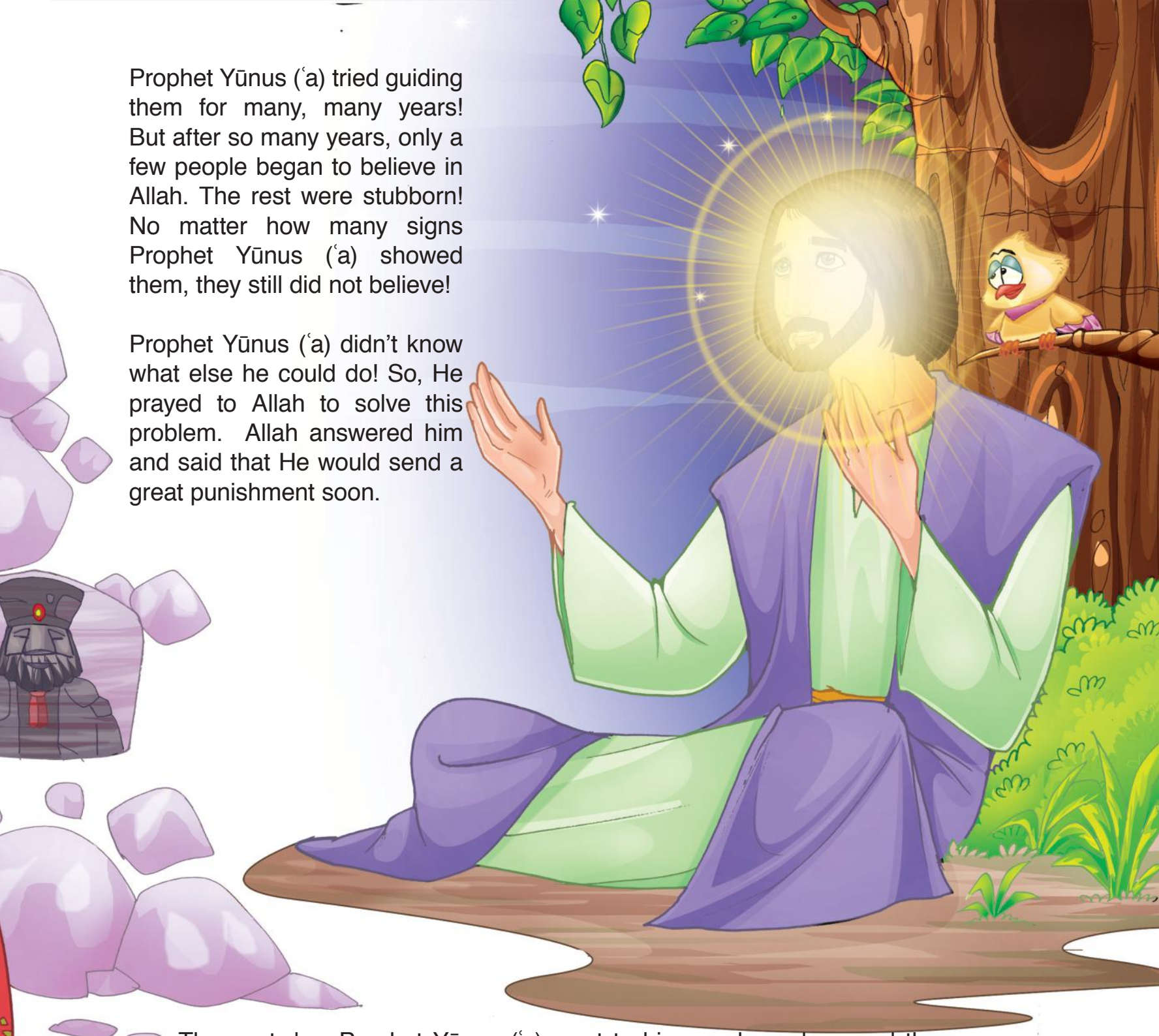
Prophet Yūnus (ʿa)* lived in the beautiful green land of Naynawā. Most people in Naynawā were farmers, and Allah gave them many blessings, like beautiful green hills and delicious fruits. But instead of thanking Allah, most of them refused to believe in Allah.

Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) tried to guide the people and teach them about Allah. They all loved him because he was so kind, but they still didn't believe in Allah.

Pronunciation Guide:
ū is an elongated "o" sound, like "oo"
a comes from the middle of the throat

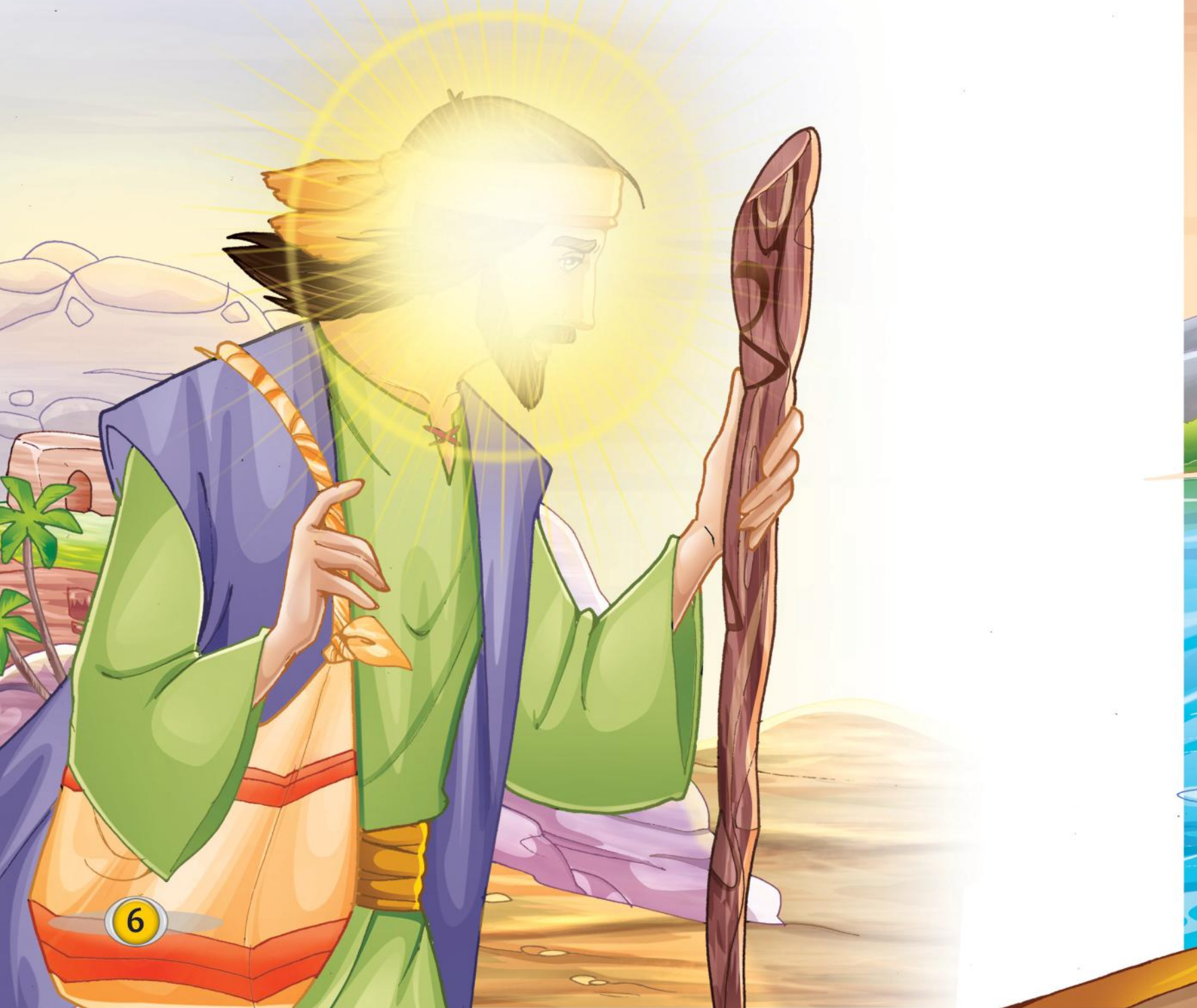
Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) tried guiding them for many, many years! But after so many years, only a few people began to believe in Allah. The rest were stubborn! No matter how many signs Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) showed them, they still did not believe!

Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) didn't know what else he could do! So, He prayed to Allah to solve this problem. Allah answered him and said that He would send a great punishment soon.



The next day, Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) went to his people and warned them about the punishment that was coming soon! However, the people still didn't listen to him, and Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) became sad.

There was barely any time left! The punishment was almost here! It was too hard for Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) to be around his people. They could see all the signs of the punishment, but they still weren't asking for forgiveness! So, he left as soon as he could. He went towards the sea and boarded a boat that sailed him far into the ocean.



Finally, it was time for the punishment! When the people of Naynawā saw the storm coming, they became very afraid! One man suggested, “Let’s go towards the mountains and ask Allah to forgive us! Maybe He will remove His punishment!”

Every single person, from the young to the old, began crying. Finally, for the first time after so many years, they prayed to Allah!

The people of Naynawā put their trust in Allah for the first time and asked Him for forgiveness. Allah is All-Kind! So, of course, He immediately forgave them and sent away the punishment! *Alḥamdulillāh!** Everyone thanked Allah and promised to follow Him and His Prophet from now on!

***Pronunciation Guide:**
ḥ is a heavy "ha" sound that comes from the middle of the throat

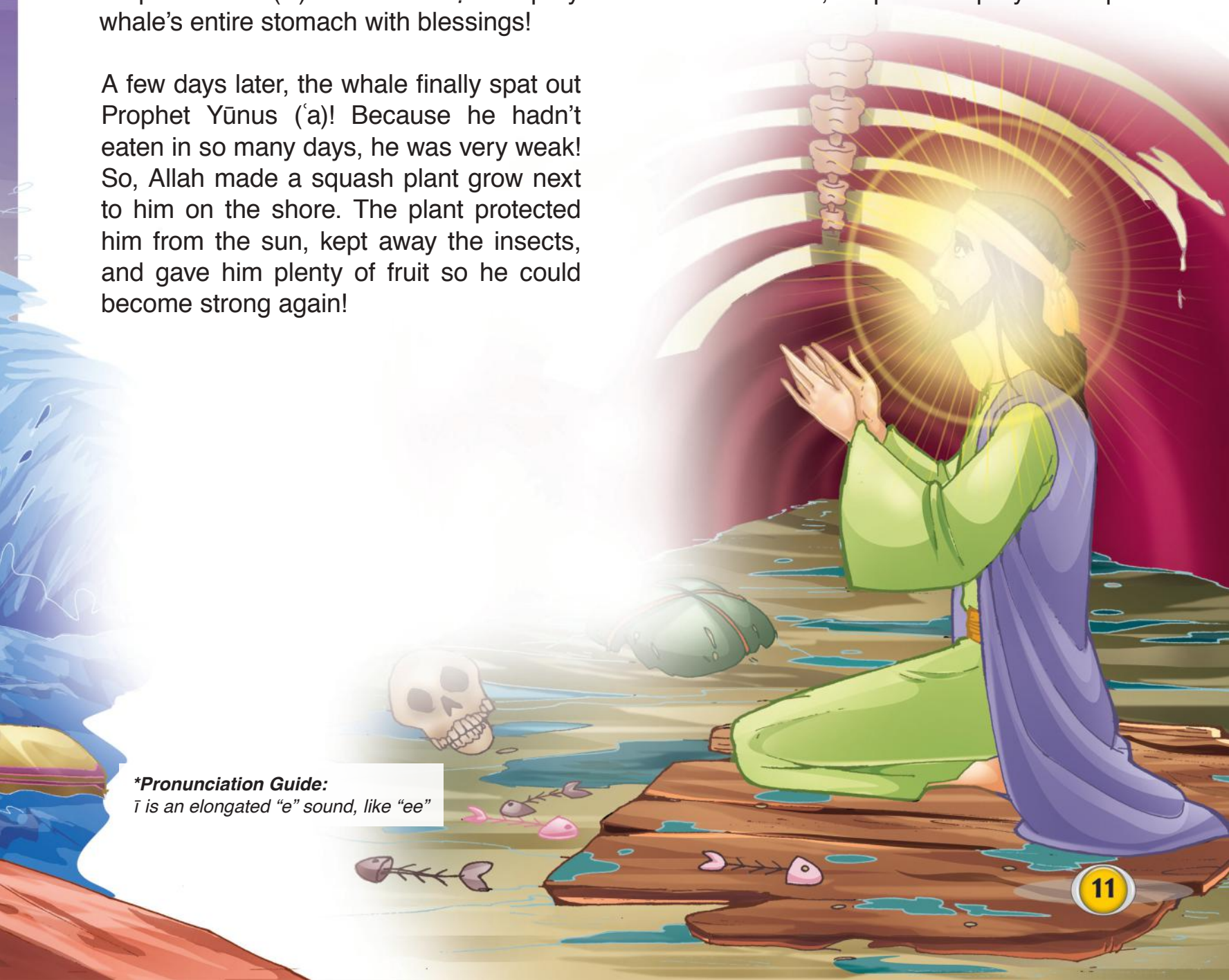
Meanwhile, a large, hungry whale approached Prophet Yūnus' (ʿa) boat. It wouldn't leave until it could eat one of the passengers. "What should we do?!" one of the passengers asked, "How do we decide who to throw overboard?"

"Let's pick names from a hat! That's most fair," another passenger suggested, and they all agreed. They picked a name from the hat three times, and Prophet Yūnus' (ʿa) name came out each time!

Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) trusted Allah and knew this was what He wanted. So, he calmly jumped into the ocean and let the whale swallow him in one gulp.

Allah told the whale not to hurt Prophet Yūnus (ʿa). Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) thanked Allah and thought, *Now I can worship Allah somewhere no one else has!* As he sat in the whale's dark stomach, Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) recited *tasbīḥ** and prayed to Allah. Over time, his powerful prayers lit up the whale's entire stomach with blessings!

A few days later, the whale finally spat out Prophet Yūnus (ʿa)! Because he hadn't eaten in so many days, he was very weak! So, Allah made a squash plant grow next to him on the shore. The plant protected him from the sun, kept away the insects, and gave him plenty of fruit so he could become strong again!



***Pronunciation Guide:**
ī is an elongated "e" sound, like "ee"

The tribe of Naynawā was thrilled to hear that Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) was still alive! As he walked back into town, they all gathered to greet and hug him. They couldn't wait for him to teach them all about Allah!

Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) lived for a long, long time! The people spent every moment they could with him learning about Allah! *Alḥamdulillāh*, they had finally accepted the truth! In return, Allah rewarded them with many more blessings!

From the people of Naynawā, we see how it's never too late to turn to Allah! Allah is All-Powerful, and only He can save us, even from the belly of the whale!

Family Time

فَالْتَقَمَهُ الْحُوتُ

Then, the whale swallowed him. (37:142)

فَنَادَىٰ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَن لَّا إِلَـٰهَ إِلَّا أَنتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

So, he called out in the darkness, "There is no god except You! Glory be to You! Surely, I have been amongst the wrongdoers." (21:87)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

When reading and learning about stories from the Qurʾān, it is important for us to reflect upon the lessons they teach us. In order to help your children internalize the lessons from this story, discuss the following questions:

1. Why did Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) leave his village?
2. What did Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) realize when his name was drawn three times?
3. Why didn't Allah send a punishment upon the people of Naynawā?
4. What did Prophet Yūnus (ʿa) do while he was in the stomach of the whale?
5. What lesson can we learn from this story?

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* that is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Allah: The Arabic term for God, a culmination of all His holy names and titles

Duʿā: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Sūrah: A chapter of the Qurʾān

Tasbīḥ: Remembrance of God through His names and attributes with a defined number, traditionally done with beads

Tawakkul: Reliance and trust in God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

The village of Naynawa is blessed with so many gifts from Allah, yet they refuse to believe in Him, and worship idols instead! Prophet Yunus (a) tries his best to guide them, but they do not listen. So, what will make them change their minds? Read *Prophet Yunus (a) and the Whale* to learn about Allah's infinite mercy and forgiveness.

AL-KISA FOUNDATION
UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

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